



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

APR 10 2003

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The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
ATTN: Joan Huffer

RE: The South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs
E-rate Funding Appeal. Filed with FCC Secretary January 21, 2003

Dear Senator Daschle:

Thank you for your letter of March 13, 2003 regarding The South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs (South Dakota Department) and the denial of their E-rate funding by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company.

We have received the South Dakota Department's letter of appeal. While I cannot comment on the merits of the appeal while it is under review. I can assure you that we will give full consideration to the arguments made by the South Dakota Department in the appeal. Your Letter has been placed in the docket in this proceeding as part of the record on review. Once issued, a copy of the decision will be sent directly to the South Dakota Department.

Thank you for your interest in this program, and please contact me if you have any additional question at (202) 418-7400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Seifert".

Mark G. Seifert
Deputy Chief
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau